

**In the Specification:**

Please amend the specification as shown:

Please delete the paragraph on page 15, lines 4-13 and replace it with the following paragraph:

Derivatives may also include fusion partners and epitope tags. Well known examples of fusion partners include, but are not limited to, glutathione-S-transferase (GST), Fc portion of human IgG, maltose binding protein (MBP) and hexahistidine (HIS<sub>6</sub>) (SEQ ID NO: 2), which are particularly useful for isolation of the fusion protein by affinity chromatography. For the purposes of fusion polypeptide purification by affinity chromatography, relevant matrices for affinity chromatography are glutathione-, amylase-, and nickel- or cobalt-conjugated resins respectively. Many such matrices are available in "kit" form, such as the QIAexpress<sup>TM</sup> system (Qiagen) useful with (HIS<sub>6</sub>) (SEQ ID NO: 2) fusion partners and the Pharmacia GST purification system.